

flag whose bright stars and broad stripes are the pride and admiration of every patriotic American, and a terror to all its enemies, either foreign or domestic.

However much gentlemen on the other side may attempt by their eloquence and ingenuity, I might say, in a few instances, their sophistry, to divert the public mind from the true cause of this sad and unhappy conflict, resulting in a resort to the arbitrament of the sword for its ultimate solution, the fact cannot be disguised that slavery and its influences were not only the ostensible, but the real cause of the rebellion. The truth of the proposition, supported by all the conspiring facts and circumstances, is as apparent and conclusive to my mind as the light of the sun at noonday. Then, Mr. President, I make the direct issue between the American Union and the institution of slavery; one or the other must perish. If the latter was the cause of the rebellion, and still its aid and support and the rebellion cannot be put down without its destruction, then I say, in the name of Heaven, and by all the sacred obligations that bind us to this Union, our wives, our children, and to posterity in all future generations, eradicate it now, henceforth and forever by the adoption of the 23d article in the report of the Committee on the Declaration of Rights. Incorporate into the organic law of the State—

"That hereafter, in this State, there shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except in punishment of crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted; and all persons held to service or labor as slaves are hereby declared free."

Then, sir, when this convention shall have finished its work, it will only remain for the Governor of the State, by his proclamation, to summon the legal voters to its coffin, the ballot box. Then, indeed, will be performed the last sad obsequies over the fetid corpse of this hitherto common, mischievous disturber of the peace and happiness of a once great, prosperous, united and glorious Union. Sir, the funeral cortege is now prepared, and only awaits the final action of this Convention, to consign with appropriate ceremonies all that remains of slavery in Maryland, to its final sepulchre, and then truly will the solemn requiem echo and resound throughout the length and breadth of this land, "*requiescat in pace.*"

Maryland free, peace in the progress of events would soon return to our distracted and divided land; cruel war would cease; the sword now stained with fraternal blood, would be beat into ploughshares, and the glittering spear of the cavalier into pruning hooks, and we should learn war no more. The wilderness would blossom as the rose, and the desert become vocal with the praise of God.

I maintain that this war is not now, and

never has been, prosecuted for the purpose of subjugating the people of the South; and in this connection I will make one remark in relation to what has fallen from the gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Clarke.) He said that he believed if the Crittenden Compromise had been carried out, the war would long since have ceased, and peace and harmony and union would have been restored. I cannot agree to any such proposition. I do not think those in rebellion commenced this war with any intention of compromising, or returning to their allegiance, until they had consummated all their nefarious purposes. What did Jefferson Davis, the head of that bogus confederacy, say in a speech delivered in the city of Jackson, during the winter of 1862, when invited to address the Legislature of Mississippi, there assembled? What did he say upon the subject of compromise, upon the subject of returning to their allegiance to the Constitution and the Union? He said, in something like these words—I speak now from memory, but I think I am correct: "If a sheet of paper as white as the driven snow, and a pencil were placed in my hands, and I was requested to write the terms of a compromise, I would spit upon it and trample it under my feet." Does that look like returning to the Union? Does that look like that sort of conciliation which the gentleman seemed to expect would be produced by the Crittenden Compromise? Certainly not. It never was their intention to return to the Union until they had tried to the bitter end the arbitrament of the sword. Then, perhaps, they may return to their reason, and a better state of things may ensue.

But I maintain that this war is not now, and never has been, prosecuted for the purpose of subjugating the people of the South; but has been waged purely and solely for the preservation of the Union and the Constitution. And there has never been a period during its bloody history, that if I had the power, I would not have granted to the masses of that misguided people, the most liberal amnesty and pardon—provided they would lay down their arms and return to their allegiance—to that benign government, as the only palladium of their political safety and prosperity, and to the protecting folds of that glorious old flag which in an insane moment and in the madness of the hour, they have so ruthlessly assailed and humbled in the dust. To their leaders and conspirators in this sad drama, I can say nothing; but would turn them over to a wise and beneficent government to be disposed of as the magnitude of their crimes deserve.

Much has been said, and eloquently said, upon the subject of emancipation. It has been ably discussed in all its phases. It has been discussed as a divine institution; it has been presented in all the deformity and wick-